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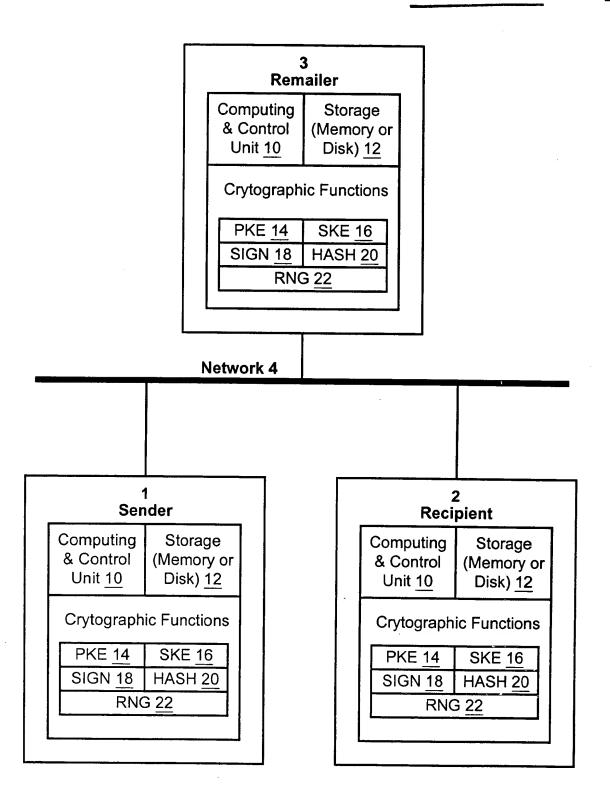


Fig. 1

Step 101

The Sender creates the message content (Mail Content) and selects a random encryption key (SymmetricKey). Both MailContent and SymmetricKey should be kept by the Sender in order to verify the validity of the certified receipt later

Step 102

The Sender sends to the Recipient the certified mail defined as:
CertifiedMail = PKE(RemailerPublicKey, CertMailHeader)+ CertMailBody
where:

CertMailHeader = Message ID+SymmetricKey:

CertMailBody = HASH(SymmetricKey)+ SKE(SymmetricKey, MailContent);

Message ID = HASH(CertMailBody);

Step 103

After receiving CertifiedMail, the **Recipient** sends a receipt to the **Remailer**:

ReceiptSentToRemailer + PKE(Remailer PublicKey, CertMailHeader)+

HASH(Symmetric Key)+ SignedReceipt

Where: SignedReceipt = SIGNED(RecipientPrivateKey, Message ID2) and Message ID2 is the message ID the **Recipient** computed from the received message according to: MessageID2 = HASH(CertMailBody);

Step_ 104

The Remailer processes ReceiptSentToRemailer as the following:

- a) Decrypts PKE(RemailerPublicKey, CertMailHeader) to obtain SymmetricKey and MessageID from CertMailHeader.
- b) Verifies SignedReceipt using the public key of the Recipient.
- c) Verifies that MessageID obtained from CertMailHeader is exactly the same as MessageID2 in SignedReceipt.
- d) Verifies that HASH (SymmetricKey) in the ReceiptSentToRemailer agrees with the HASH computed from SymmetricKey in CertMailHeader.
- e) If all the verifications succeed, send the SignedReceipt to the Sender.
- f) If sending receipt to the Sender succeeds, send the Symmetric Key to the Recipient.

Step 105

The Recipient decrypts SKE(SymmetricKey, MailContent) using the SymmetricKey received from the Remailer to obtain MailContent.

Step 106

After receiving the SignedReceipt, the **Sender** is able to prove that the recipient has received the exact MailContent by demonstrating:

- a) The Recipient's signature signed SignedReceipt can be verified using Recipient's public key.
- b) The MessageID2 in the SignedReceipt agrees with the hash of CertMailBody reconstructed from SymmetricKey and MailContent the **Sender** has kept.

Fig. 2

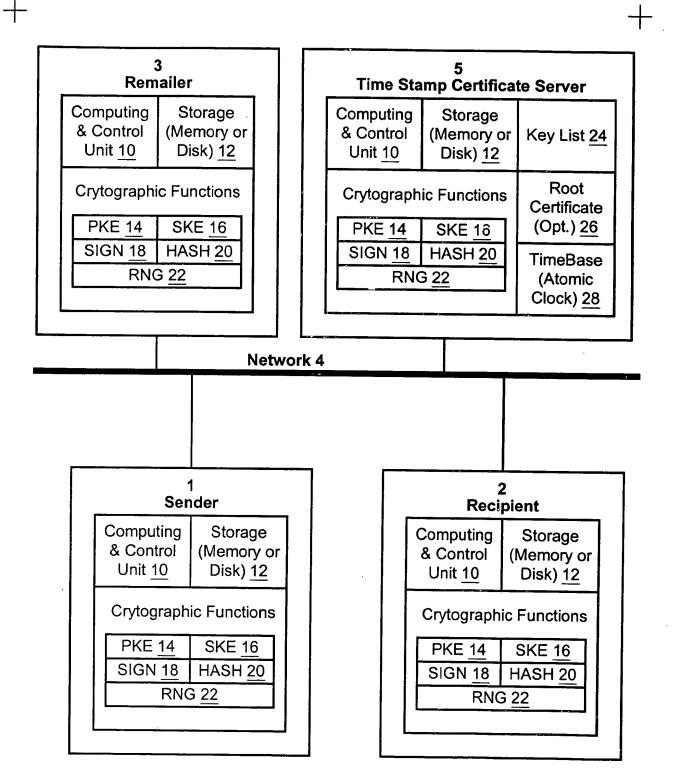


Fig. 3

Step 401 The Sender creates the message content (MailContent) and selects a random encryption key (SymmetricKey) Step 402 The Sender constructs CertMailBody and computes Message ID CertMailBody CertMailBody = HASH(SymmetricKey) + SKE(SymmetricKey, MailContent); MessageID = HASH(CertMailBody); Then, the Sender sends MessageID, SenderAddress, RecipientAddress, and RemailerAddress to the TSC Server to retrieve a TSC for the sending time. Step 403 The TSC Server issues a TSC for the sending time: SendTSC = SIGNED(TSCServerPrivateKey, MessageID + SendTime + SenderInfo + RecipientInfo +RootCertificiate): where (see the text descriptions for possible variations): SenderInfo = SenderAddress + SenderPublicKey RecipientInfo = RecipientAddress + RecipientPublicKey RemailerInfo = RemailerAddress + RemailerPublicKey Step The Sender verifies SendTSC, constructs the signed certified mail header: 404 SignedCertMailHeader = SIGNED(SenderPrivateKey,SendTime + MessageID + SymmetricKey) and then sends the Recipient the certified mail defined as: CertifiedMail = PKE(RemailerPublicKey, SignedCertMailHeader) + +PKE(RecipientPublicKey, SignedCertMailBody); SignedCertMailBody = SIGNED(SenderPrivateKey, CertMailBody +SendTSC). The Sender also keeps a "carbon copy" of the certified message: CarbonCopy = PKE(SenderPublicKey, SignedCertMailHeader) + +PKE(SenderPublicKey, SignedCertMailBody); Step After receiving CertifiedMail, the Recipient decrypts the second part to obtain 405 SignedCertMailBody, verifies it, computes MessageID2 = HASH(CertMailBody), and then sends MessageID2, RecipientAddress, SenderAddress, and RemailerAddress to TSC Server to retrieve a TSC for the receiving time.

Continue to Fig. 4b

Fig. 4a

Continued from Fig. 4a

Step_ 406

The TSC Server issues a TSC for the receiving time:

Receive TSC = SIGNED(TSCServerPrivateKey,MessageID2÷

ReceiveTime + RecipientInfo + SenderInfo + RemailerInfo + RootCertificate);

Step_407

The Receiver verifies the ReceiveTSC and sends a receipt to the ReMailer:

ReceiptSentToRemailer = PKE(RemailerPublicKey, SignedCertMailHeader) +

PKE(RemailerPublicKey, HASH(Symmetric) + ReturnSessionKey +

SignedReceipt), where:

SignedReceipt = SIGNED(RecipientPrivateKey, SendTSC + ReceiveTSC)

Step 408

The Remailer decrypts ReceiptSentToRemailer to obtain SignedCertMailHeader, HASH(SymmetricKey), and SignedReceipt. Then, the Remailer conducts a series of verification steps to ensure that the SignedCertMailHeader, SignedReceipt, SentTSC, ReceiveTSC are all valid and the data contained in them are all consistent. If all the verifications succeed, the Remailer sends the Sender CertifiedReceipt = PKE(SenderPublicKey, SignedReceipt) and sends SKE(ReturnSessionKey, SymmetricKey) to the Recipient.

Step 409

The Recipient decrypts SKE(ReturnSessionKey, SymmetricKey) received from the Remailer to recover SymmetricKey and then use it to decrypt SKE(SymmetricKey, MailContent) to obtain MailContent.

Step 410

After receiving CertifiedReceipt, the **Sender** is able to prove that the MailContent existed at SendTime and is delivered to the recipient at ReceiveTime by demonstrating:

- a. The **Recipient's** signature in SignedReceipt can be verified using RecipientPublicKey in receive TSC.
- b. The MessageID or Message ID2, in Signed Receipt, SendTSC, ReceiveTSC, all agrees with the hash of the CertMailBody recovered from the Carbon Copy, kept by the **Sender** during Step 404 above.
- c. SenderInfo, RecipientInfo, RemailerInfo in both SendTSC and ReceiveTSC are are all consistent.
- d. The signatures in TSC and ReceiveTSC can be verified using **TSC Server's** public key in the RootCertificate, and the RootCertificate can be verified using the root public keys.
- e. SendTSC in CarbonCopy is the same as the one in the SignedReceipt.

Fig. 4b